

tional Disorders" by William B. Bean, Professor of Medicine, University of Iowa; Chapter 7 on "Local Antiseptics" by Philip B. Price, Dean and Professor of Surgery at the University of Utah College of Medicine; Chapter 8 on "Antibacterial Agents" by Chester S. Keefer, Professor of Medicine, Boston University; Chapter 11 on "Stimulants to Vital Medullary Centers" by McKeen Cattell, Professor (Emeritus) of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College; Chapter 14 on "Sedatives and Tranquilizers in General Medical Practice" by Dale G. Friend, Clinical Pharmacologist at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston; Chapter 15 on "Hypnotics" by Louis Lasagna, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Chapter 24 on "Drugs in the Treatment of Hypertension" by Sidney W. Hoobler, Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Hypertension Unit, University of Michigan Medical School; Chapter 26 on "Vasodilator Drugs for the Treatment of Peripheral Vascular Disturbances" by John H. Moyer, Professor of Medicine at Hahnemann Medical College; and Chapter 39 on "Dermatologic Drugs" by Marion B. Sulzberger, Professor Emeritus of Dermatology, New York University School of Medicine.

A special feature of this practical treatise on drugs is a series of 46 tables for quick reference on such subjects as "Determination of Children's Doses from Adult Doses on the Basis of Body Surface Area," "Normal Electrolyte Patterns of the Body Fluids," "Conversion of Gravimetric Concentrations of Plasma Electrolytes to Combining Equivalents," "Clinical, Chemical and Biological Data on Vitamins," "Diseases in which Penicillin Is the Antibacterial Agent of Choice," "List of Allergic or Possibly Allergic Reactions to Drugs," "Average Doses of Vasopressor Drugs," "Nonnarcotic Antitussive Agents," "Corticotropin and Corticosteroids Employed in Allergic Disease," "Summary of Therapy of Hypoplastic Anemia or Bone Marrow Failure," "Suggested Constituents of a Kit for Treatment of Poisoning," etc.

This book is as up to date as a book can be, and although the previous edition was published in 1960, it offers much that is new, either in substance or point of view. There are four chapters by new authors: "Antidiabetic Agents," "Drugs in Arterial Hypertension and Shock," "Anticonvulsants," and "Antiemetic Agents."

With each new edition of this book, there is improvement in the selection of material, manner of presentation and interest to the reader.

CLINTON H. THIENES, M.D.

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SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS—Sixth Edition—Charles E. McLennan, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, Calif. The C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1962. 464 pages, \$6.75.

This well-known, attractively produced and apparently popular précis is written in a succinct, almost telegraphic style, in which the text is partly in tabulated form. Despite extreme condensation, virtually all important subjects in obstetrics are touched to some extent. The emphasis of this book is on diagnosis and management of obstetrical problems, and all of the clinical methods described represent relatively sound and conservative practice. However, as is perhaps inevitable in such a manual of this sort, the author is rather dogmatic in his recommendations.

In this edition there is a certain improvement in the organization of the text with rearrangement of the material into a more logical sequence. The mechanism of labor is now placed before the management of labor, and postpartum hemorrhage is now treated with the postpartum complica-

tions, rather than with antepartum hemorrhage. We are happy to see that in the management of postpartum hemorrhage the recommendation for packing of the uterus has been withdrawn from the text; and that the number of sex chromatin in the human is now correctly stated to be 46.

Despite these changes, however, the question naturally arises as to whether this new edition is truly justified. True, this edition is organized into six fewer chapters, has 12 new illustrations and 61 more pages as compared with the edition of five years previously; however, it offers precious little new information.

One defect is that certain statements which seem incontrovertible, are in fact extremely debatable; for example, that the best treatment of hyperthyroidism in pregnancy is preparation with Lugol's solution followed by subtotal thyroidectomy; and that in malarious areas, malaria is not usually a serious complication of pregnancy. It would seem that in a discussion of the treatment of genital urinary tract infections the dangers to the fetus of certain sulpha drugs should be emphasized, and that, in a section on hemorrhagic disease of the newborn the amount of vitamin K to be given for prophylaxis should be clarified and the dangers of over-dosage emphasized. In the section on Apnea neonatorum there is no real discussion of treatment, which is, however, presented over 200 pages previously in the section on care of the newborn. One would also think that a small bibliography would be useful in referring the reader to a fuller treatment of reference material elsewhere.

Another question which naturally arises is for whom this synopsis is intended. The preface would indicate that it is mainly to be of value to students, and ostensibly this book is probably presented as a foundation on which they are to build clinical experience. One must question the validity of commending this expensive volume as a mere outline of obstetrics, to be used by itself by medical students, however, since it would seem desirable for them to have a fuller treatment of the material with a more discursive presentation and less rigid dogmatism. In addition for slightly more than twice the price of this book one could obtain the classic textbook of obstetrics in the English language. Furthermore, certainly practitioners of obstetrics could not expect to use this as their source of knowledge. Thus although this volume is attractively prepared and beautifully bound, it would seem there is debatable justification for its publication. Finally, in view of the paucity of editorial change, we are sorry to see that the name of Dr. Litzenberg, the synopses' original author, is omitted from this edition.

LAWRENCE D. LONGO, M.D.

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TREATMENT OF INJURIES TO ATHLETES—Don H. O'Donoghue, M.D., Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Oklahoma Medical School, Oklahoma City. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1962. 649 pages, \$18.50.

Although the injuries which athletes suffer during rituals of sport are not peculiar to them, a book specializing in their care is useful as the approach differs from the general run of traumatology. As Dr. O'Donoghue points out, treatment of athletic injuries must aim for a completely perfect result so that the athlete can again take his place in competition. Such perfection is of lesser importance to the average working man where other socio-economic factors must also be considered. Further, in contradistinction to industrial medicine where the physician must guard himself against a human tendency on the part of the patient to prolong his illness, in the care of the athlete the physician must resist the patient's enthusiasm and be sure he is really fit for full duty.